



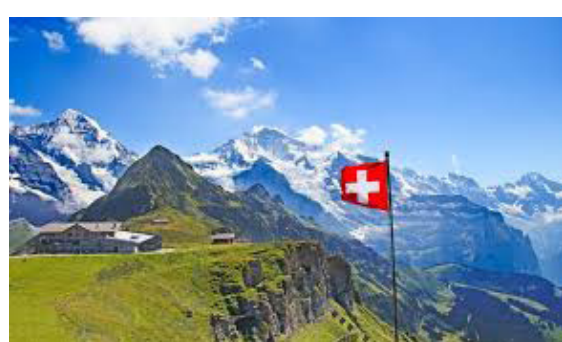
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## Swiss Embassy clarifies not suspending visa appointment for Indian tour groups

The Swiss Embassy in New Delhi in a statement has clarified that it has not suspended Schengen visa appointments for Indian tour groups and has almost 800 daily appointments



through the end of September 2023. The mission asserted that people-to-people contact is at the core of Swiss-Indian relationship. "In 2023, the Embassy of

Switzerland in India has processed more visa applications than it did in 2019. We have surpassed our pre-pandemic times processing level. From January until June, we handled 129,446 applications, as against 120,071 during the same period in 2019 – a 7.8% increase," the statement further read.

## 'India, LAC countries need to collaborate in tourism & hospitality'

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has pitched for increasing collaboration between India and LAC countries



**Piyush Goyal**

in areas such as tourism, hospitality and promoting investment flows. Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) Region nations include Belize, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Brazil, El Salvador, Panama, Chile, Guatemala, Peru, Costa Rica, Guyana, and Suriname. He said huge opportunities are there in both regions to boost trade and investments.

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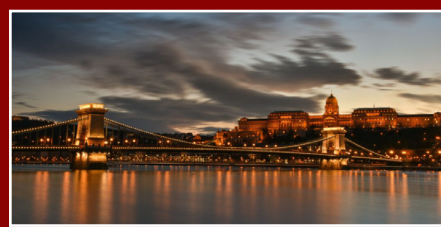
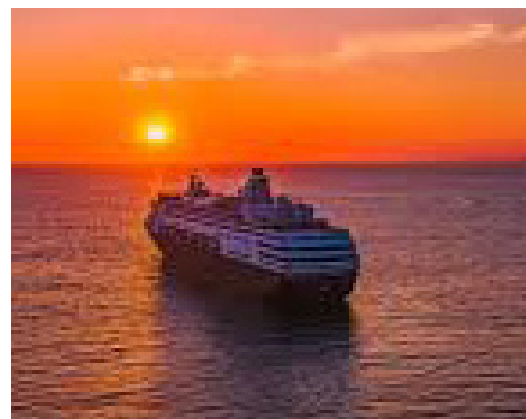
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## Thomas Cook, SOTC launch extensive range of cruise holidays

Thomas Cook India & SOTC's India Holiday Report 2023 highlights unique trends – including a 70% surge in cruise holidays/sea-cations. To capitalise on this significant potential, Thomas Cook (India) Limited and its Group Company, SOTC Travel, have launched an extensive range of Cruise Holidays, from short cruise getaways/weekenders, river cruises, Polar cruises (Arctic/Antarctica), round-the-world cruises and more. The Companies intend to target their diverse range of segments – across Leisure, Corporate, B-Leisure and MICE.



## Visit Hungary partners with BRANDit to strengthen its presence in the Indian Market

Visit Hungary, the international brand of the Hungarian National Tourism Authority, has partnered with BRANDit, a leading tourism marketing representation company, to reinforce its trade relations in India. This strategic partnership will allow Indian tourism professionals to better discover Hungary, Budapest and beyond.

## Flydubai announces new Wet Lease Agreement with Smartwings

Flydubai, the Dubai-based airline, announced its new agreement with Smartwings, the Czech Republic-based airline, to wet lease four Next-Generation Boeing 737-800 aircraft between 17 October 2023 and 16 April 2024. The Aircraft, Crew, Maintenance and Insurance (ACMI) agreement with Smartwings will see four-leased aircraft support flydubai's fleet of 79 Boeing 737 aircraft, enabling the carrier to add more capacity for its passengers and cater to demand for travel during busy travel periods.

## Telangana proposes using defence airport Hakimpet for civil aviation

The Telangana government proposed the development of a second airport in the city seeking permission to allow the use of the defence airport at Hakimpet for civil aviation, and this matter will be taken up with the Defence Ministry shortly. After a recent cabinet meeting that was presided over by Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, State Industries Minister K.T. Rama Rao mentioned that the Hakimpet station can function in a hybrid model similar to Pune and Goa, where the airports are used for both defence and civil aviation.



**K. Chandrashekar Rao**

## EgyptAir launches Cairo-New Delhi flights

The national carrier of Egypt, EgyptAir has announced direct flights from Cairo to New Delhi, flying four times a week. The airline will deploy its A320neo on the route offering 2 Cabin service with 16 seats in Business Class and 126 seats in Economy Class. The flight MS973 will depart Cairo on Fridays & Sundays at 11:40 (Cairo time) and arrive in Delhi at 20:45 (Delhi time); MS975 will depart from Cairo on Thursdays and Saturdays at 23:50 (Cairo time) and arrive in Delhi at 08:55 the next day (Delhi time).

